

**Bowling Tenant House**  
**CH-651**  
**Bryantown vic.**  
**Private**

**Circa 1900**

The Bowling Tenant House is a simple two-story, four room structure built c. 1900, resting at the edge of a cultivated field overlooking the Zekiah Valley. Although virtually ruinous, this vernacular dwelling is representative of the simple homes associated with tenant families in rural Charles County during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most uniquely, the interior is relatively intact revealing simple trim as well as brightly painted plank walls and ceiling joists.

This structure is believed to have been associated with nearby Bowling Green (CH-215), a 19<sup>th</sup> century dwelling owned by the locally prominent Bowling family. In 1920 the property on which the tenant house stands was sold to Peter and Ida Meyer. Since the 1930s the property has been owned by the Stonestreet family.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-651

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowling Tenant House  
other

### 2. Location

street and number 6478 Oak Hill Place not for publication  
city, town Bryantown X vicinity  
county Charles

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maurice and Anna Stonestreet  
street and number 6478 Oak Hill Place telephone 301-274-3288  
city, town Bryantown state MD zip code 20617

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 34-21  
city, town LaPlata liber 2300 folio 396

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
			Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:	
		Agricultural storage	0

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-651

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Likely constructed at the turn of the 20th century, the Bowling Tenant House is a two story frame structure resting at the edge of a cultivated field overlooking the Zekiah Valley. This starkly simple structure, located in the vicinity of the Bryantown Historic District, is characterized by its 2 story, 2 room plan room with double front doors on the façade that provide access to each of the first floor rooms. The dwelling stands on a 141 acre tract and is approached by a long farm lane that passes two contemporary dwellings before proceeding to the fields in the rear.

The house faces southeast and rests on a fieldstone pier foundation. The exterior is covered in rough sawn weatherboard and a metal seam roof. A single square chimney flue projects from the roof's center. All windows were originally double hung with 6/6 sash. The front elevation received the most elaborate treatment of the four elevations including two second floor windows above the first floor doors. Inside these doors are two additional windows providing light into the first floor rooms. The gable ends are entirely without fenestration while the rear elevation includes four symmetrical window openings, two on either floor. Second floor windows are found directly under the cornice. Missing siding reveals that this structure was constructed using downbracing at the endposts. Only modern wire cut nails and circular sawn lumber were observed.

The floor plan consists of two first floor rooms and two above. A narrow enclosed stair is located next to the first floor southwest gable wall in what is believed to have been the kitchen. This room also contains the chimney flue. The entire first floor interior was finished with simple plank, attached both vertically and horizontally, and nailed to the uninsulated frame. Plain narrow square-edged trim surrounds the doors and windows. The ceiling was also unfinished. Despite the overall crude construction, the house was brightly painted with whitewashed walls and a sky blue ceiling, window and door surrounds. The entire structure is currently used for agricultural storage and is filled with bales of straw rendering the second floor inaccessible for evaluation.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-651

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1900

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1900

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Bowling Tenant House is a representative example of the types of vernacular structures associated with tenant families in Charles County during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The structure is historically associated with nearby Bowling Green (CH-215), constructed during the 19th century by members of the Bowling family. The simple structure reveals a common two story, four room plan which was once a typical feature of the rural landscape. Containing early or original wall treatments, this structure reveals how the interiors of such simple structures were typically finished.

Charles County, formally established in 1658 remained primarily rural for over three hundred years. For those three centuries tobacco was the principal cash crop supplemented by the cultivation of corn, wheat and vegetables for home or local consumption. The agricultural economy, which relied on slave labor during the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries was replaced with a system of tenancy after the Civil War that continued until the close of World War II.

In 1920, Peter and Ida Meyer purchased two tracts of land formerly owned by William F. Bowling and his heirs. The first included 148 acres acquired by Mary Bowling Posey, daughter of William F. Bowling. Ten years later the Meyers conveyed the two tracts to Francis L. Stonestreet and they both remain in the Stonestreet family today.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-651

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 5

Acreage of historical setting 212

Quadrangle name LaPlata

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 34, Grid 18, Parcel 21.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning Department

date 3/29/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-651

Section 8 Page 1

Bowling Tenant House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

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**Chain of title:**

August 22, 1904	William F. Bowling et al to Mary Bowling Posey. 212 acres. <b>FDM 15:562</b>
July 19, 1920	Bowling heirs to Peter F. and Ida F. Meyer. 2 tracts. 212 minus 64 acres recently sold . Next to Jameson property. <b>36:691</b>
January 6, 1930	Peter and Ida Meyer to Francis L. Stonestreet. <b>51:191</b>
January 6, 1930	Francis L. Stonestreet to Mary M. Gwynn <b>51:193</b>
January 18, 1970	Mary M. Gwynn to Francis L. and Maurice Stonestreet <b>229:485</b>
November 4, 1996	Maurice Stonestreet to Maurice and Anna Stonestreet <b>2300:396</b>

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-651

Section 9 Page 1

Bowling Tenant House

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

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**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Circuit Court Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 1/2001

North arrow:



Name: BOWLING TENANT HOUSE

Address: 6478 OAK HILL PLACE

CH - 651

Charles County, Maryland

BRYANTOWN ☒ Vicinity

WOODS



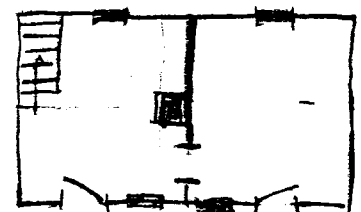
STEEP SLOPE TO ZEKIARI VALLEY



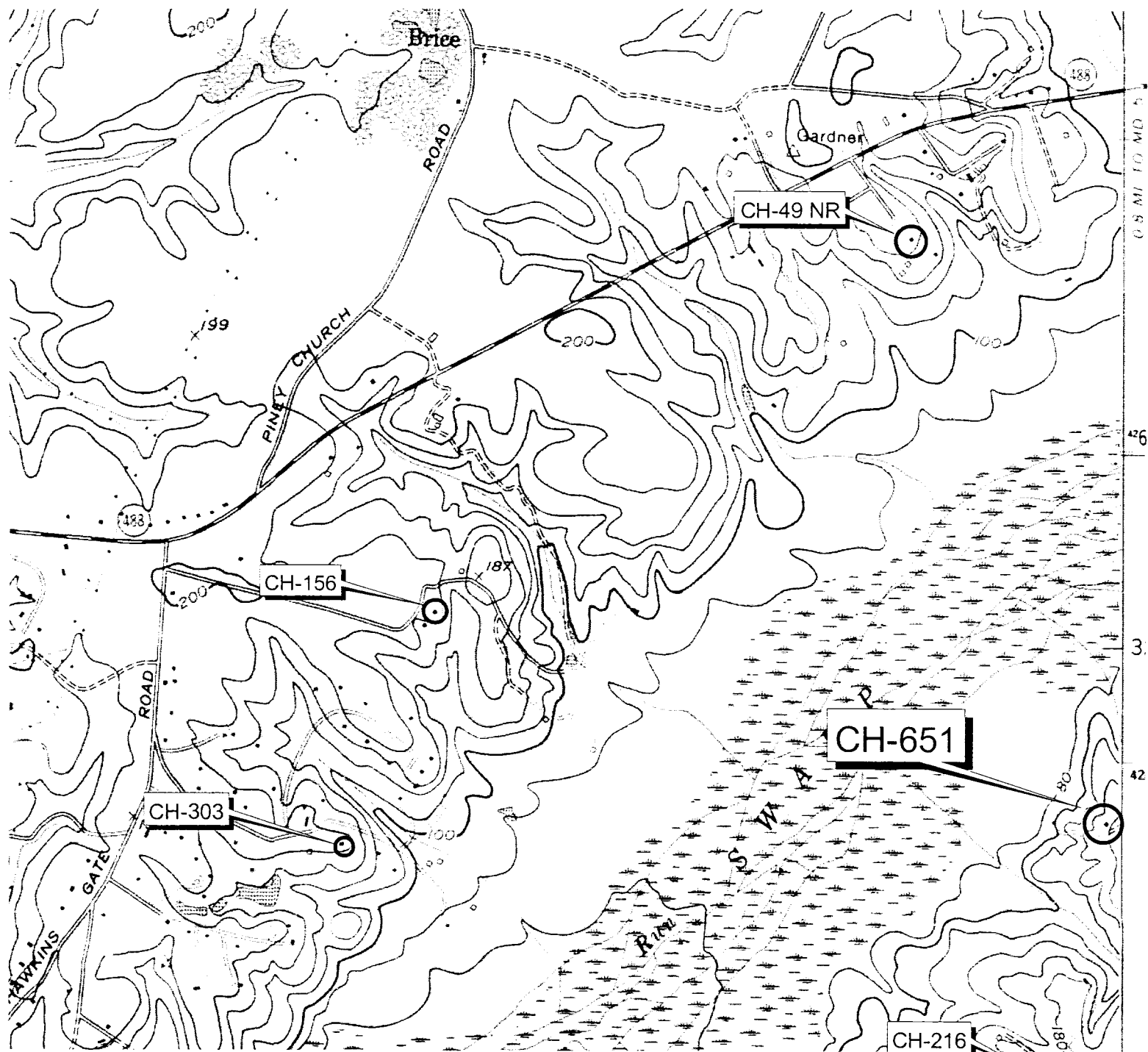
OPEN FIELD

FARM LANE

INSERT FIRST FLOOR PLAN







CH-651  
Bowling-Posey Tenant House  
Bryantown vic.  
LaPlata, MD Quad





24-651

BOWLING TENANT HOUSE

BRYANTOWN VIC

1/2001

C CURREY

MD SHPO

FACADE - FIELD FACING NW

1 of 4



CH-651

BOWLING TENANT HOUSE

DEYANTOWN VIC

1/2001

C. CURREY

MD SUPD

LOOKING WEST 2 of 4



CH-651

EDWING TENANT HOUSE

BRYANTOWN VIC.

1/2001

C CURREY

MD SUPO

SW CORNER

3.8.01





CH 651

BOWLING TENANT HOUSE  
BRYANTOWN VIC.

1/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPO

INTERIOR, LOOKING WEST

4 OF 4